

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----092605 040216Z /20

O 040008Z APR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0425
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01208

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PEPR, LE, IS, XF, UNSC
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON

REF: STATE 84784, STATE 83982

1. DURING COURSE OF LEONARD'S BRIEFING ON APRIL 3 OF
URQUHART, GUYER AND JONAH ON UNIFIL DEVELOPMENTS
DRAWING FROM REFERENCED CABLES, FOLLOWING ITEMS
WERE DISCUSSED:

2. POSSIBLE RETURN TO SECURITY COUNCIL: URQUHART SAID
KUWAIT PERM REP BISHARA COMPLAINED AN HOUR EARLIER THAT
UN'S PROGRESS REPORT ISSUED APRIL 2 INDICATED NO
IMPROVEMENT IN SITUATION WITH REGARD TO IDF WITHDRAWAL.
URQUHART PROTESTED TO BISHARA THAT ON THE CONTRARY
UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT WAS PROCEEDING AT A REALISTIC PACE,
UNITS WERE POSITIONED ALONG LITANI RIVER NOW,

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MORE CONTINGENTS ON THE WAY, AND OF COURSE CERTAIN
IDF THINNING OUT WAS TAKING PLACE. BISHARA
SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO CONFER FURTHER WITH URQUHART
IN THE AFTERNOON; POINTING OUT HE NEEDED TO PREPARE
FOR ARAB GROUP MEETING APRIL 4. URQUHART OPINED
TO US THAT AN SC MEETING WOULD BE DISASTROUS.
LEONARD OBSERVED THAT HE HAS SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT

WITH BISHARA AT 4:30 P.M. APRIL 3 (SEPTTEL). LEONARD SAID THE ISRAELI MISSION HAD REGISTERED WITH US DURING THE WEEKEND ITS CONCERN OVER A POSSIBLE RETURN TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. WE USED THE OCCASION TO STRESS THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE OF IDF ANNOUNCED PLANS OF WITHDRAWAL.

3. ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL: URQUHART AND JONAH COMMENTED PRIVATELY TO LEONARD THAT IDF PLANS TO WITHDRAW FROM EAST WERE GOOD FOR THE RECORD BUT SOMEWHAT "PHONEY", SINCE THE EAST WOULD CONTINUE UNDER CHRISTIAN (HADDAD) CONTROL. IDF WITHDRAWAL FROM THE CENTRAL REGION WAS ALSO OF LESSER IMPORTANCE SINCE IT WAS NOT A POPULATED AREA. MORE SIGNIFICANT WOULD BE IDF MOVING BACK FROM THE WESTERN AREA. URQUHART CONFIRMED SIILASVUO CONVERSATION WITH GUR (JERUSALEM 968) ON IDF INTENTIONS TO DEPLOY SOUTHARD ON EASTERN FLANKS BY APRIL 13 ASSUMING NORWEGIANS ARE IN PLACE.

4. UNIFIL COMPOSITION: URQUHART NOTED THAT SOVIET PERM REP TROYANOVSKY FIRED SALVO OVER UN'S BROADSIDE ON APRIL 1 WHEN LATTER MET WITH WALDHEIM. TROYANOVSKY SAID IT APPEARED UNIFIL WAS TRYING TO TAKE KASIMIYAH BRIDGE BY FORCE; WALDHEIM DEMURRED. TROYANOVSKY ADDED IT ALSO APPEARED UNIFIL TROOPS WERE BEING ALIGNED AGAINST THE PALESTINIANS. URQUHART SAID
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WALDHEIM DID WHAT HE COULD TO ASSUAGE TROYANOVSKY.

5. SOVIET INVOLVEMENT: URQUHART SAID UNNY IS NO CONSIDERING POSSIBLE FURTHER STEPS TO BRING SOVIETS IN LINE. UNNY WOULD BE REVIEWING THESE PROPOSALS WITH WALDHEIM (IN EUROPE) LATER TODAY. THESE FURTHER STEPS COULD INCLUDE SOUNDING OUT THE POLES WITH REGARD TO PROVIDING AN ENGINEERING COMPANY ON A TEMPORARY BASIS FOR MINE CLEARING, AN URGENT PROBLEM AND SOMETHING WHICH THIS POLISH COMPANY WOULD DO WELL. A FURTHER CONSIDERATION IS A PROPOSAL TO MOVE SOVIET UNMO'S WITH UNTSO INTO THE TYRE AREA. URQUHART AND OTHERS VIEWED LATTER AS PRICE TO PAY FOR SOVIET COOPERATION WITH UNIFIL AND ESSENTIAL PERHAPS TO PREVENTING UNIFIL OPERATION FROM BECOMING ANOTHER CONGO. UNNY ACKNOWLEDGED LIKELY ISRAELI PERTURBED REACTION BUT IF ISRAELIS WANT UNIFIL CONTROL OVER TYRE, COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET BLOC MAY BE THE ONLY SOLUTION. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION URQUHART POINTED OUT THAT DECISIONS ON COMPOSITION OF ANY PEACEKEEPING FORCE WERE COMPLEX, BUT ULTIMATELY UN MUST ASSUME FINAL RESPONSIBILITY AS IT

WOULD IN THIS INSTANCE.

6. FURTHER UNIFIL CONTINGENTS: UN OFFICIALS
CONFIRMED THAT MEXICANS HAVE SAID THAT A BATTALION
(ABOUT 600 MEN) COULD BE READY IN TWO WEEKS. USG
ASSISTANCE WOULD BE REQUIRED SINCE MEXICANS INDICATED
TROOPS COULD BRING ALMOST NO EQUIPMENT WITH THEM.
TWO MEXICAN OFFICERS ARE EXPECTED IN NEW YORK APRIL 4.
NORWEGIANS AND FRECH HAVE BEEN REQUESTED TO EXPAND
THEIR CONTINGENTS TO 1,000. UNNY HAS ASKED IRANIANS

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TO SUBSTITUTE THEIR UNIT PRESENTLY DEPLOYED
FROM UNDOF WITH A FULL BATTALION. THIS WOULD
RELEASE TO UNDOF THE BORROWED UNIT. UN OFFICIALS ARE QUITE
OPTIMISTIC IRANIANS WILL AGREE. MEANWHILE THERE HAS
BEEN NO FURTHER DEVELOPMENT ON A NIGERIAN UNIT, OTHER
THAN AN APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE FROM THE ISRAELIS.
DISCUSSIONS RETURNED TO POLISH INVOLVEMENT; IT WAS
SUGGESTED AMB. TUENI MIGHT BE USEFUL IN SEEKING A
POLISH MINE CLEARING UNIT. A POLISH LOGISTICS UNIT
FROM UNEF WAS NOT CONSIDERED A LIKELY OPTION. URQUHART
COMMENTED THAT ASSISTANCE FROM US IN AVOIDING DEBATE
(PARTICULARLY FROM THE USSR WOULD BE HELPFUL WHEN THE SYG
GOES BACK TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO SEEK CONCURRENCE IN
UNIFIL'S ENLARGED COMPOSITION, PROBABLY UP TO 6,000.

URQUHART REITERATED IN LATER CONVERSATION UNIFIL'S NEED TO EXPAND. HE INDICATED A RETURN TO THE COUNCIL FOR THIS PURPOSE WAS NOT URGENT BUT WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED AT SOME POINT AS UNIFIL CONTINUES TO GRO.

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URQUHART OBSERVED THAT WALDHEIM LIKES THE IDEA OF SENDING A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO BEIRUT. URQUHART IS HIMSELF LEAVING FOR LONDON TOMORROW AND WILL DISCUSS THE MATTER IN DEPTH WITH THE SYG. URQUHART CONCLUDED BY STRESSING THAT A TELEGRAM AUTHORIZING SIILASVUO TO EMPLOY SOVIET UNMO'S WAS BEING SENT. URQUHART REITERATED THAT THE DECISION OF WHICH COUNTRY'S AID WOULD BE SOLICITED FOR UNIFIL WAS A MATTER BETWEEN UNNY AND THE COUNTRY CONCERNED -- IN THIS CASE LEBANON. THE SOVIET UNMO'S WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE USED AS A LIAISON IN THE TYRE AREA WITH THE PLO BUT WOULD BE EMPLOYED IN WHATEVER WAY SIILASVUO SAW FIT. URQUHART IS ALERTING SIILASVUO TO THE DELICATE NATURE OF WHATEVER ACTIONS THE SOVIET UNMO'S MIGHT EVENTUALLY ENGAGE IN. LEONARD

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